

NAME: ISHIMA Iijima, Fusako DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_ PLACE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: F Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_ Education: \_\_\_\_\_

## PRE-WAR:

Date of arrival in U.S.: 1914 Age: \_\_\_\_\_ M.S. M Port of entry: San Fran.  
Occupation/s: 1. Milk delivery 2. Beauty shop 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Place of residence: 1. San Francisco 2. Sacramento 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Religious affiliation: Christian church  
Community organizations/activities: \_\_\_\_\_

## EVACUATION:

Name of assembly center: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of relocation center: Manzanar  
Dispensation of property: Sold beauty shop Names of bank/s: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jobs held in camp: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Jobs held outside of camp: \_\_\_\_\_  
Left camp to go to: Michigan

## POST-WAR:

Date returned to West Coast: 1945  
Address/es: 1. Sacramento 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Religious affiliation: Christian church  
Activities: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
If deceased, date, place and age at time of death: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of interviewer: Takarabe Date: 1969 Place: Sacramento

*Translator Mabel Napp*

*Last name correction "ISHIMA" per Asako Tokumoto 5/16/02*



ISHIMA  
Mrs. Fusako Iijima

Q: When did you leave Japan?

A: I don't remember well, but I think it was March of 1914.

Q: From what reason did you leave Japan?

A: To get married.

Q: Was Mr. Iijima in America?

A: I met him at a church in Matsyo when he went back to Japan. For some reason I could not come to America, so I quarrelled with my sister who was in Hawaii. In the meantime our house was burned down by a fire. His parent came from far away to ask me to become his son's bride, so my older brother finally gave in. I came to America with a promise that we would go back to Japan in about 3 years.

Q: Were you a Christian then?

A: Yes, I belonged to a Christian church in Azabu.

Q: Where did you go first when you came to America?

A: San Francisco. I was not baptized yet, so a missionary told me to be baptized. I told him that I was not ready for it, but he told me that my brother who was in the theological seminary in San Anselmo said I was ready and he wanted me to be baptized. I was baptized around April 30.



Q: When you left Japan were there anything you wanted to do in America?

A: I don't know myself how it happened, but I had trouble with a marriage. I had a child, so I wanted to go back to Japan. I wanted to go to school when I came to America, and correspond with her. Rev. Watanabe's wife was teaching English at YWCA, so my brother asked her to teach me English, but I could not go there. I was supposed to have gone back to Japan after 3 years, but I couldn't do so. A little later my brother came to see me on his way to a church in Seattle. Things were not going on well, so he thought it was better for both sides and for my child that I went back to Japan. I was going to do so, but I couldn't, and I let the matter slide. That child's daughter graduated from Aoyama Gakuin and came to a college here a few years ago. Her husband's father is a minister.

Q: What did you do at San Francisco?

A: I heard that he had a big store, so I thought he was doing well. But when I came here I found out that he was in milk delivery business. Rev. Koga's father and my brother were good friends. Rev. Koga went back to Japan on the same<sup>on which</sup> ship I came to America. My husband was a Christian, but was a Catholic.



Q: When you came here did you help the store?

A: My husband delivered milk from 5 o'clock in the morning. In those days there were no automobiles, so he went to the whole-sale milk dealer by horse drawn cart and delivered milk before people got up. The store was very small. As everything was so different I had a hard time. I said I wouldn't do anything until my husband lets me go to church, so I went to church every Sunday.

Q: Did you stay in San Francisco until the war broke out?

A: No. He was selling candies besides milk. He went to a candy maker's and learned to make candies with a plan to start a candy company like Morinaga in Japan, but it did not work as he planned. He made candies and icecream and sold them. He kept on saying that we were going back to Japan, but we did not get to do so.

Q: Why were you planning on going back to Japan after 3 years?

A: I left my child in Japan, so I planned to go back to Japan after 3 years, but it did not work out as I planned, and I could not go to school after 3, 4 or 5 years. Some people learned English at YWCA before joining their husband in the country, but I did not have such freedom.



Q: Did you go <sup>to</sup> different places in California from San Francisco?

A: I had been healthy and I had never been sick, but as I worked too hard I became ill. The doctor told me that the climate in San Francisco was not suitable for me, so I should move to Sacramento or to <sup>u</sup> Southern California. I would get rheumatism if I stayed in San Francisco. I had arthritis, so when we made money at the time of the Exposition we sold the store and moved to Sacramento. When we moved to Sacramento my husband did not have a job, so I told him to go to school and study, and I will do the housework, but he did not do that. He had injured his knee when he was young.

Q: When did you start the beauty shop?

A: Mrs. Hirasawa had a beauty shop and told me to be a beautician. Also Mrs. Toriumi asked me to help her with sewing. Both were my friends so I did not know what to do, but Mr. and Mrs. Miyakawa told me that I should learn to be a beautician. When I told them that I didn't have the money raised money by selling raffle tickets and I bought Mrs. Hirasawa's store for \$1,000. In that way I opened a beauty shop in Sacramento without a license. My husband did not have a steady job so we could not make a living. At one time my brother sent us about 20 copies of the book he wrote, so we sold them <sup>for \$1 a copy</sup> and lived on that money for about a week. My husband and a few other members always gathered at Mr. Ishizaki's house and criticized pastors. As we had an old Ford they all got in our car and went around, and we could not make a living. As I would have



been fined for operating a beauty shop without a license I attended a beauty college while operating the beauty shop. Then I went to a beauty school in San Francisco and learned Marinaro system by using electricity. Before that I learned sewing for a while. When I came to America I wanted to learn English and typing so that I could go back to Japan and work at some company as my marriage to Iijima did not go well. However, I went to the beauty college and recieved a diploma as a beautician and a hair remover. I was interested in removing hair, but there wasn't any teacher here so I studied it through books. As my English was poor, I was afraid if I could pass a test. But when I took a test on manicure special I barely passed it. Then I took a test on electro\_\_\_\_\_ and manicure and passed it with the score of 97%. I was the only Japanese among about 300 people who took the test. I was bashful when I was praised. I was not good at making money, so even with good income I did not have a permanent machine. I waved hair with heat instead of electricity, so not many people wanted permenent. However, I made \$6 for removing one hair. Japanese wouldn't spend such money, but I had American customers once in a while.

For a while I sold insurance. A man who is in insurance business in Salt Lake city now recommended my husband to sell insurance as he was not working, but he did not do well so I had to sell it. As I did not drive I had to go with my husband, and while he was talking I wrote down the information.



My early days in America was such a confusing one. I went to S San Francisco with an intention of going back to Japan, but I came down with fever. I cried as I thought God still want<sup>ed</sup> me to stay here. At that time Rev. Inori was a seminary student, and was staying at the church. He knew my older brother who had a math school in Tokyo, so he cooked breakfast for me. When Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ called my husband in Sacramento telling him that I had to be hospitalized with swollen adenoid he rushed from Sacramento to take me home.

Q: What were you doing when the war broke out?

A: I had the beauty shop here.

Q: What did you do when you had to go to the relocation camp?

A: I stored the equipments in a government storage. Around March of 1940 I spent much money and remodeled the beauty shop and put new furnitures in so that it would be more comfortable for the girls to work there. After that the war broke out, and I heard that we might not be able to buy any more material, so I spent more money buying materials. Then I received the last letter from my husband who was helping Dr. Kagawa in Japan telling me to go back to Japan. I did not have time to sell the store and catch the last ship to Japan, so I sent a letter to him telling him that I would not go back to Japan. I don't know whether he received the letter or not. Our son Sammy did not want to go to



Japan as he did not speak Japanese and could not go to a school, but he told me to go back to Japan alone if I wanted to. As he was my only son and was still in highschool I did not have any intention of going back to Japan.

As for our belongings I did not know what to do with them. I wanted to store them in government warehouse as it was free, but some people who did not trust the U.S. government said that the government would not return our belongings. It was close to March 24, the deadline for the relocation. Mr. Miyamoto offered to make arrangements for me to put my belongings in the warehouse, but as my relations in Los Angeles wanted me to go there I didn't have time, so I finally sold the store. After spending a lot of money I sold the store for only \$500. I spent about \$700 buying new furnitures, and spent much money in buying materials. Except for \$3,000 in insurance I didn't have much money on hand.

Sammy took a course in aeronautics at junior college, and that helped. In those days Japanese could not get in the Air Force, but a pastor in Marysville helped him get Sammy in the Air Force. After taking the basic training he was stationed at Travis Air Force Base. At that time I injured my foot, so he was allowed to come home over the weekends. After I sold the beauty shop I went to camp, but I did not stay there too long.



Q: Which camp did you go to?

A: Manzanar.

Q: How long did you stay there?

A: Less than a year.

Q: How did you feel when you went to the camp?

A: I was not alone, everyone was together, but I felt pitiful. It could not be <sup>e</sup>h<sub>l</sub>ped, everyone had to bear it. My husband was in Japan, and wrote me and told me to go back to Japan but I could not. My niece met her husband at the University of California, and then they went to Cleveland and graduated from a school there.

Q: How long did you stay in Cleveland?

A: I did not go to Cleveland. I went to Saginaw, Michigan. I stayed there a little over a year. Then my niece had to move because of her husband's job. We moved to Chicago and Sammy got a job there working till 4 o'clock. He attended a night school there.

Side 2

Q: Did you come back to Sacramento right after the war ended?

A: The war ended when I was working at a <sup>dress</sup>factory in Chicago. While we were in Michigan my son received I-A so we thought it was hard for him to get a job, but he got a job as soon as we went to Chicago.



I was going to stay in Chicago for a while, but some people told me to come back to Sacramento as my beauty shop was for sale. Even if I wanted to buy it I couldn't if I didn't have the money. I thought all the furnitures I bought were in the shop, so I came back from Chicago. At that time Sammy was staying at Marysville, and met me at the station. Next morning he went to Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield and became an assistant to an instructor.

Q: Did you buy back the beauty shop?

A: Yes, I did. But all the new furnitures I bought when I remodeled the shop were gone, and just junks were left. Before the war I had about 4 girls working for me, but after the war I did not have enough furnitures and the wages were higher, so I worked alone or hired a helper sometimes. Had there been no war I would have made money. The other day I went to have a will made as I had not been feeling well, but I was told that unless I have real wstate I did not need a will.

T: You whould mention in your will how you want your funeral.

I: I have already written that I want my funeral not to be a sad one but that God's will be shown through my death.



Q: Do you remember anything that happened in the relocation camp?

A: I taught Sunday School in the camp. My son played a portable piano, but as his legs were long the piano was pushed up, so he had to hold the piano down with one hand. My niece played a piano at the church in the hospital. Her inlaws were not Christians so they scolded her for doing that. After my niece's family left the camp they wrote to us often encouraging us to leave the camp as it was not good for Sam, so we left. I worked as a nurse's aide in the hospital so we were given enough medicine and food and were treated well.

Q: What did you miss most in the camp?

A: There were many churches in the camp, but there were many non-Christians. Rev. Ogi was our pastor.

Q: Did everyone have to go to church?

A: Everyone should go to church, but they didn't. Some people became unruly. Those who behaved unruly were sent to Tule Lake.

Q: What do you mean by acting unruly?

A: They said bad things about the camp, and started fights. Christians did not do such things. People in our block wanted to sell beer so they took votes to get permission from the office. I was working in the kitchen then. One morning when I went to the



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kitchen they told us to vote in order to get permission to sell beer. It was Sunday and the Sunday School children were there, so they made the children put their ballot in the box. I told them it was wrong to do such thing. When I told the children it was wrong to do such a thing they said that they did because those men told them to do so. That is why when we left the camp the people in the kitchen said that we were going to be prostitutes after we left the camp. Dr. Muramoto's wife who had been with me since she was in Sunday School saw us off. When we left the camp we were frightened. Togasaki brothers were in the camp.